



OLR RESEARCH REPORT

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NEW SCHOOL DISTRICT SECURITY MEASURES

By: Michael Csere, Legislative Fellow

You asked for a list of new security measures that the state's school districts have proposed or adopted in response to the December 2012 shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown.

Connecticut newspapers have reported numerous new school security measures, either proposed or approved, by towns and school districts throughout the state since the Newtown shootings. These include:

1. Hiring new or additional security guards;
2. Increasing police presence in schools;
3. Installing new entry mechanisms at school doors (e.g., automatic locking devices, swipe-card entry systems, buzz-in intercom systems, panic buttons), bullet proof glass, surveillance cameras, and sally ports (secure entryways consisting of a series of doors);
4. Requiring new check-in protocols for all visitors;
5. Repairing existing security devices and structures; and
6. Reviewing existing safety plans.

Table 1 lists these measures, and indicates their current status (if known) and estimated cost. Approval has come through a local school board or town council vote or a referendum. When known, we have indicated whether the measures are being proposed town wide or at specific schools.

Table 1: New School District Security Measures

School District	Proposed Security Measures	Status	Estimated Costs and Spending to Date
Amity (district includes Bethany, Orange, and Woodbridge)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Upgraded one part-time security guard to full-time 	Approved	\$22,000 spent
Avon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Audible alarms on exterior doors ○ Annunciator panels to provide visual monitoring of door alarms ○ Primary locking hardware in each room (to lock doors from inside) ○ Video surveillance system ○ Replace district-wide two-way radio system 	Proposed	\$240,000
Brookfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Phase 1: installation of double-buzzer system at main entrances, ID security windows for front offices, key card access for employee entrances, video surveillance at important access points ○ Phase 2: Replacement of locking mechanisms on doors ○ Phase 3: Installation of security gates at main entrances, purchase of 2 high-end police band radios for each school ○ Additional proposal: Hire four armed school resource officers (SROs) 	Funding for phase one (\$110,900) approved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$347,500 (building upgrades and equipment) ○ \$300,000 (SROs)
Cheshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Upgrade to existing remote door-lock system (replace staff keycards with fingerprint reading devices) ○ Other safety and security upgrades 	Approved	\$25,000 spent; town expects to spend \$75,000 total
Colchester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Installation of secondary entrance and exit road for emergencies ○ Block corridors by entrance so visitors must go immediately to office upon entering building 	Approved	\$56,000

Table 1 (continued)

School District	Proposed Security Measures	Status	Estimated Costs and Spending to Date
Glastonbury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Security guards for elementary schools o Locking mechanisms for doors, swipe-card entry systems, buzz-in intercom systems with panic buttons o Bullet-proof glass at various buildings o Doors that were unlocked before Newtown shooting now locked 	Proposed and approved by town council, needs approval from finance board and public hearing process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o \$613,000 (installation of new systems and hiring of guards for remainder of current school year) o \$500,000 (security guards for 2013-2014 school year)
Hamden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Increased police presence o Security review underway 	Approved	\$5,000 spent
Madison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Install front door buzzer systems so all exterior doors can remain locked throughout the day 	Approved	\$45,000
Milford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Hire four to five new SROs o Hire greeters to decide who should enter and patrol hallways o Replacement of all locks in city's 14 schools o Add surveillance cameras o Seeking money to install rapid call buttons 	Some measures approved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Up to \$300,000 for SROs o \$133,000 for greeters o Some locks already replaced for \$420,000 through bonding, cost to replace remaining locks \$220,000 o \$86,000 for rapid call buttons
New Haven	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Community police officers actively connecting with schools in their neighborhood o Conducted review of security systems, which resulted in repairs o Create keycard systems for exterior entry to internal doors 	Repairs already done	\$12,000 for repairs
North Branford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Hire six armed security guards for town schools o Guards will carry two-way radio, will have background in law enforcement and current firearms permit o Guards will be trained by police department 	Approved	\$137,000 per year
North Haven	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Upgrade security for four elementary schools and middle school o Hire armed school resource officers 	Proposed	Security upgrades: \$1 million Armed SROs: \$250,000 per year
Orange	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Rapid call buttons in each school o Identification badge entry system o New automatic locks on all classroom doors o Video surveillance system o Sally ports at entrance to each school o Seeking an SRO position. 	Some approved, SRO position proposed.	\$150,000 approved. Town will also bond \$705,000

Table 1 (continued)

School District	Proposed Security Measures	Status	Estimated Costs and Spending to Date
Plainfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Intercom system for all classrooms at one school o Door control buzzer at entrance of two buildings o Rear entrance surveillance systems at two schools o Panic buzzer providing immediate contact with police at various schools o Fencing repairs at outdoor play areas at two schools 	Approved	\$49,000
Ridgefield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Eight unarmed security guards hired and stationed at school entrances o Check-in protocol: use of only one entrance, visitors must present photo ID, recording of visitor purpose and entry and exit times o Computer, phone, and door buzzer being set up for guard stations o One evening security guard hired for high school o Additional SROs and surveillance cameras 	New guards hired and check-in protocol implemented	\$515,000 proposed for school security in 2013-2014 budget
Seymour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Added one SRO at high school o Considering hiring police officers for each school 	Additional SRO added	Police officers in each school would cost \$377,000 annually
Sprague	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Electronic locks with "panic button" on all interior doors at town's only school o Bullet-resistant film on all doors and windows on school's exterior o Construction of six-foot gate 	Proposed	\$45,000 (electronic locks) \$19,000 (bullet-resistant film) \$10,300 (gate)
Tolland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Upgrade surveillance equipment (updated camera licensing and increased storage capacity) o Structural changes to school designs 	Proposed	\$54,990
Wallingford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Install electronic access system at town's two high schools o Update intercom system o Cellphone repeaters at schools with poor cellular signals 	Approved	Over \$400,000
West Hartford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o One additional full-time and two part-time security officers 	Proposed	\$77,000
Westport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o School safety study 	Proposed	\$100,000

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